

So, as things now stand, I am not persuaded that the case has been made for selection of the Yucca Mountain site, and I therefore am not ready to override the Governor's objections by voting for this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE JOHN BOOTH
SENIOR CENTER

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents for her commitment to our senior citizens.

Since 1965, the John Booth Senior Center has served the folks of East Baltimore. When first opened, the center was only one of 350 senior centers in the United States. Today, thanks to the efforts of its tireless director, June Goldfield, the center not only offers a community gathering place but a support service for East Baltimore's older citizens, enabling many of them to stay in the community as active, vital participants.

June began her full time employment with Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks almost 15 years ago and has dedicated herself to preserving and enhancing services for seniors. The center boasts unending activities and instruction as well as a close relationship with Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, which offers medical assistance to members. The ethnic food festival, prepared by center members, is among the most enjoyable activities.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating June Goldfield on her public service and wishing her well in her retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL ENTERPRISE
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Small Business Enterprise Paperwork Reduction Act, a bill to relieve the burden of regulation compliance documentation.

Federal regulations are set to ensure worker safety and to protect public health and the environment. This nation's small businesses—representing 99 percent of all employers and constituting half our economic product—place a high value on compliance with regulations. Unfortunately, these requirements disproportionately burden small businesses, which spend millions of hours annually meeting federal paperwork and record-keeping requirements to prove that they have complied with regulations.

The time and effort spent by businesses and taxpayers to meet paperwork demands are estimated to equal almost 10 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. Clearly, this is a waste of time and resources better spent creating jobs and furnishing goods and services.

Federal paperwork consistently ranks among the top 10 problems for small busi-

nesses. Time spent filling out forms, takes small business owners away from conducting our nation's business. It takes doctors away from patient care. It takes restaurant owners away from serving patrons. It takes your auto mechanic away from fixing your transmission.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (PRA), since amended, seeks to minimize the cost and burden imposed by federal paperwork requirements and to maximize the usefulness of the information collected. The PRA of 1995 required reduction of paperwork burdens government-wide. Unfortunately, the burden did not decrease since 1995—in fact, it has increased by nearly 180 million burden hours during Fiscal Year 2000. This is the second largest one-year increase since the act was passed. It is also an outrage.

The PRA established the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Office of Management and Budget to review and clear agency information collection requirements. Unfortunately, OIRA has been diverted from its original mission by an Executive Order that makes it a central clearinghouse for agency rulemaking actions. Review of regulations now takes up most of OIRA's time and resources.

This legislation seeks to bring OIRA back towards its original mission—to ensure that Federal agencies do not over-burden businesses and the public with requests for information and documentation.

The Office of Management and Budget listed a total of 710 PRA violations for Fiscal Year 2000.

This legislation will strengthen the PRA by requiring OMB to do more to enforce the law on paperwork burden violations.

In addition, by making violations of the Paperwork Reduction Act a more public matter, it will increase public awareness and force agencies to focus on the burdens they impose on small business.

Lastly, this legislation requires federal agencies and OMB to track the paperwork burdens on small businesses by industry type. Congress and the public should be aware of what burdens are being placed on our small businesses by Federal agencies.

Small businesses create 75 percent of the new jobs in America. To protect this economic dynamo, we must be careful about the burdens we place on these firms. If the burden of government paperwork becomes too great, it will stall the very engine of economic growth that has made America strong. This legislation is designed to tighten the load, so that small businesses can get back to work providing jobs, goods and services in their communities.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL
OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as a co-chair of the Correctional Officers Caucus, to honor the men and women working in our correctional facilities. On a daily basis, correctional personnel perform a wide range of jobs, from the routine to the extraordinary. Their work often goes unnoticed, but the efforts of correctional officers and employees

were never more apparent than on September 11, 2001.

Following the horrific terrorist attacks, the New York Correction Department immediately sent personnel to assist in rescue operations. Department staff controlled traffic congestion enabling emergency vehicles to reach Ground Zero and assisted firefighters by delivering fuel to needy fire trucks. They built a small "tent city" equipped with heat, electricity, telephone and fax lines to provide additional support services for the temporary morgue at Bellevue Hospital. The Department also conducted security clearances and issued thousands of photo ID cards to secure access to Ground Zero and other restricted areas.

Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, correctional officers and employees were deployed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist in various rescue and recovery efforts.

I have introduced H. Con. Res. 390 to recognize the week of May 6th as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, in gratitude for the courage and professionalism of the New York City Correction Department in the face of tragedy, as well as the daily work of all correctional officers and employees who perform their jobs with dedication and resolve.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor our Nation's correctional officers and employees. I urge my colleagues to recognize these men and women by cosponsoring this important resolution.

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH
ISRAEL IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST
TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I offer these comments for the RECORD to supplement my vote on House Resolution 392—the resolution in support of Israel in the war against terrorism—which this body approved on May 2.

I voted in favor of the resolution because I believe what it said was both substantially accurate and needed to be formally declared by this Congress and this Nation: that there is no acceptable justification for terrorism in general and suicide bombing in particular. No one—no nation, no organization—can ever be perceived as gaining any advantage militarily, diplomatically, or politically from this reprehensible tactic.

I offer these comments because I'm afraid the resolution told only part of the story. What the resolution said wasn't nearly as controversial as what it didn't say. Because while it did incorporate some language addressing the humanitarian concerns of the Palestinian people, even the most ardent supporter of the current government in Israel would have to agree that the resolution was not as balanced as it could, or should, have been.

That's why I voted against ordering the previous question on the rule for this resolution. To put it simply, I hoped we could open up the debate on the resolution to include additional language. In my opinion, we could have made the resolution more balanced, portrayed a